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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/611,054	07/06/2000	Tom Gray	481340010023	5057
7590 David B Cochran Jones Day Reavis & Pogue North Point 901 Lakeside Avenue Cleveland, OH 44114		04/10/2007	EXAMINER KARMIS, STEFANOS	
			ART UNIT 3691	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 04/10/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p style="text-align: center;">Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief</p>	Application No. 09/611,054	Applicant(s) GRAY ET AL.
	Examiner Stefano Karmis <i>[Signature]</i>	Art Unit 3691

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 01 March 2007 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

a) The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.

b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because

(a) They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);

(b) They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);

(c) They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or

(d) They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).

5. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.

6. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

7. For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) will not be entered, or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-9, 14-27 and 32-36.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).

9. The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).

10. The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation.

12. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.

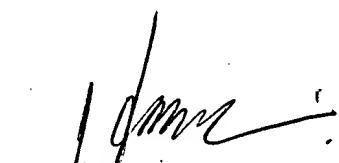
13. Other: _____.

Regarding claim 1, the amended claim does not place the application in condition for allowance because the amended limitations referring to "agent" does not have an antecedent basis in claim 1. It is unclear whether the agent is considered part of or one of the holding or bidding entities. Therefore, the amended language to claim 1 renders the claim indefinite. Similar analysis applies to claim 19 and all pending dependent claims.

Regarding claim 1, the amended limitations are unclear as to what the redistribution is based on. The final step of independent claim 1 states, "redistribution of said supply of said holding entities among said bidding entities based on said negotiating, wherein said redistribution is based upon a proportion of said supply held by said holding entity using a holding price...." Therefore it is not clear whether the redistribution is based on the negotiation or based upon a proportion of said supply held by a holding entity using a holding price or both. Similar analysis applies to claim 19 and all pending dependent claims.

Also regarding claim 1, the amended limitations lack a tangible result. In order to be a tangible result, the process must produce a real-world result. The final step of independent claim 1 states, "redistribution of said supply of said holding entities among said bidding entities based on said negotiating, wherein said redistribution is based upon a proportion of said supply held by said holding entity using a holding price...." This step is not considered tangible because it could be considered to be abstract or merely encompassed in thoughts. Therefore claim 1 does not produce a real world result. Similar analysis applies to all claims dependent from claim 1.

Respectfully Submitted
Stefanos Karmis
30 March 2007



HANI M. KAZIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER